

THE COLONNADE

GEORGIA COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

THE ULTIMATE STUDY BUDDY

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Photo by Emily Bryant

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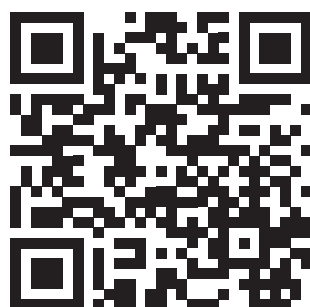


THE COLONNADE



Can you name a GC athlete?

Scan the QR code to find out if GC students were up
to the task!



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SGA proposes initiatives at first senate meeting

24-hour campus study space, diversity and sustainability discussed



Bethany Strauss / Staff Photographer

SGA held its first official meeting at Milledgeville City Hall. Newly sworn in senators proposed new legislation and voted on positions.

Graham Hill
Staff Writer

The Georgia College Student Government Association (SGA) presented and discussed upcoming legislation at its first senate meeting at the Milledgeville City Hall on Sept. 29.

SGA Vice President Matt Jones said he was particularly excited about discussing the possibility of a 24-hour, on-campus study space.

“Something the students want, and the administration wants, is the best kind of legislation,” Jones said.

Sophomore Cam Watts, an at-large senator and head of the Academic Affairs Committee, is tackling this legislation head-on, but he also said that it will not be easy to accomplish.

“The 24-hour study space is going to be a little tricky just because we are going to need to allocate some space on campus dedicated strictly to that, so it is going to be a lot of working with administration,” Watts said.

GC students can also be prepared to see GC working more closely with the Early College Program. Senator Gabby Aladesuyi, head of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, along with other members of her committee, will be sitting down with Dr. Runee Sallad, director of the Early College Program, to discuss how best SGA can improve the relationship between GC and the Early College Program.

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is also working on a diversity week for the spring semester. Aladesuyi and the rest of SGA are working hard to further the conversation and action on diversity on GC’s campus.

“We are really trying to push the conversation of what diversity and inclusion can do for a college campus and especially a liberal arts campus, and we want to change the conversation from being among minority students to being among all students,” Aladesuyi said.

Aladesuyi and recently elected President Pro Tempore (PPT) Amelia Lord said they are excited to work with the GC Office of Sustainability in order to improve Georgia College’s recycling and composting practices.

“I’m super excited to sponsor and endorse more events that have to do with the Office of Sustainability because I think that is a direction we’re moving in with the school,” Lord said.

SGA will also have to work with the City of Milledgeville in order to accomplish these goals. Lord said that since GC students have control over sustainability practices, she is excited to see what new things can come out of the work the Campus Wellness and Sustainability Committee will do.

Lord said she will also use her extensive

“We are really trying to push the conversation of what diversity and inclusion can do for a college campus.”

- Gabby Aladesuyi

knowledge of the governing documents of SGA in her new role as PPT to maximize the impact that SGA can have on campus.

“I think there’s a lack of understanding for exactly what our governing documents say and what they can be applied to, with different student organizations,” Lord said.

While SGA has only just begun its work for the semester, the senators and leadership are already working in committees and with GC administrators on legislation. GC students will gain a better idea of the specifics of SGA’s agenda as it begins debating newly proposed legislation at its upcoming meeting on Friday, Oct. 6.



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GA House Bill 801 boosts STEM students' GPAs

**Saskia
Lindsay**
Staff Writer

Georgia House Bill 801, signed into law by Gov. Nathan Deal on May 3, boosts the HOPE GPAs of science, technology, engineering and mathematics students, otherwise known as STEM majors.

Effective Fall 2017, the "Rambling Wrecktification" bill adds an additional 0.5 to STEM students' HOPE GPAs if the student initially earns a B, C or D. The bill does not affect students' institutional GPAs.

House Bill 801 makes it easier for STEM students to keep their GPA-based scholarships like the HOPE and Zell Miller scholarships. Because the bill gives students in STEM courses who make a B, C or D an additional 0.5 to their GPA, it will help them maintain the 3.0 GPA required for the HOPE scholarship and the 3.3 GPA required for the Zell Miller scholarship.

Senior Connor O'Neill, an exercise science major, said she is excited about the bill and how much it will help her in her STEM courses. O'Neill said the bill is fair even though non-STEM students do not receive the additional 0.5 because she thinks STEM courses are more challenging than non-STEM courses.

O'Neill said she also believes the bill will serve as an incentive for students to take STEM courses and

be STEM majors.

"A lot of students choose not to go the STEM route because the classes are more challenging; however with this new bill I feel like more students would be willing to do it," O'Neill said.

The U.S. lags behind other countries in science and math, so bills like House Bill 801 could encourage students to become STEM majors. According to the Pew Research Center, the U.S. ranks 496th in the world in science and 470th in mathematics.

While this bill may be extremely helpful for STEM students, some non-STEM students disagree with the action.

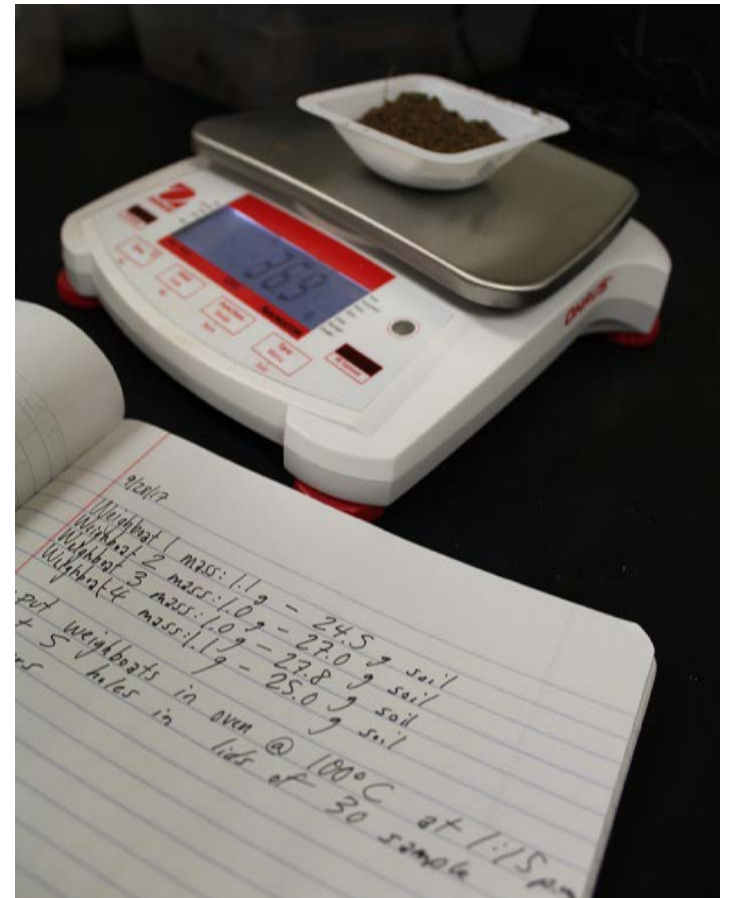
Senior Tristan Watson, a mass communication major, said he disagrees with the new bill because he believes it will devalue majors in the arts.

"Students should be willing to apply themselves in either area if they truly want to succeed," Watson said.

Junior Lauren St. Onge, an exercise science major, disagreed.

She said STEM majors have to put in a lot more work than non-STEM majors just to make a B.

"Science classes are incredibly hard and very time consuming," St. Onge said. "All my friends that are business majors seem to have much easier classes. Accounting, for some of them, is their hardest class, whereas, I have to take very difficult, upper-level science courses."



Bethany Strauss / Staff Photographer

Sophomore psychology and biology double major Christina Cortes will benefit from the bill.

Natural disasters don't plan ahead, but you can



Bethany Strauss / Staff Photographer

Sophomore Paige Overmyer and Capt. Joe Grant of the GC police educate students about the best ways to be prepared in case of a natural disaster.

**Chandler
Durden**
Staff Writer

With the arrival of Natural Disaster Preparedness month in September, and after a visit from Hurricane Irma, the GC2Y Unnatural Disasters class collaborated with GC Public Safety to host an event to inform the campus on how to be prepared for a natural disaster on Sept. 19.

"Hopefully people will know you need more than water after coming to us," said Amanda Reinke, assistant professor of anthropology and teacher of the Unnatural Disasters class.

The students in the class began the event by first handing out a checklist to see if anyone already owned some of the items for a disaster preparedness kit, and most did not. Then they passed out pamphlets explaining how to build a disaster preparedness kit and what the essentials of the kit were.

Sophomore Kendal Griner, an early childhood education major, was worried at how unprepared some people were.

"We each did the survey in class and realized we had nothing," Griner said.

The preparedness kit included many items people

usually think of, such as water, a flashlight and non perishable foods, but other components are often forgotten, like an emergency blanket, a whistle and sunscreen.

Along with showing how to prepare at home for a natural disaster, the class displayed a map of the resources on campus. The map, created by GC public safety, showed where to go if a natural disaster were to ever hit Milledgeville.

"There are lots of resources on campus," Reinke said. "Public safety is your go-to."

The map showed certain areas that are designated for specific purposes during an emergency.

Porter Hall is a designated bomb shelter, Centennial Center is the meeting place for all due to its size, and the locations of emergency call boxes on campus were also made known.

Those in attendance also learned that if they pick up the phone in any classroom and do not dial anything, public safety will automatically be called.

Students who attended the event left with the knowledge of how to personally be prepared for an impending disaster as well as resources the school provides during such instances.

"It would be very smart to know what is available to you," said sophomore Jennifer Harris, an exercise science major.

Georgia College football to remain undefeated

McKenzie Julian
Staff Writer

Rumors of a GC football team have come and gone throughout the years. GC students have often wondered why Georgia College still doesn't have a team. Many students seem to be in support of starting a team.

Director of Athletics Wendell Stanton argues that creating a football team is more expensive and complicated than most people realize.

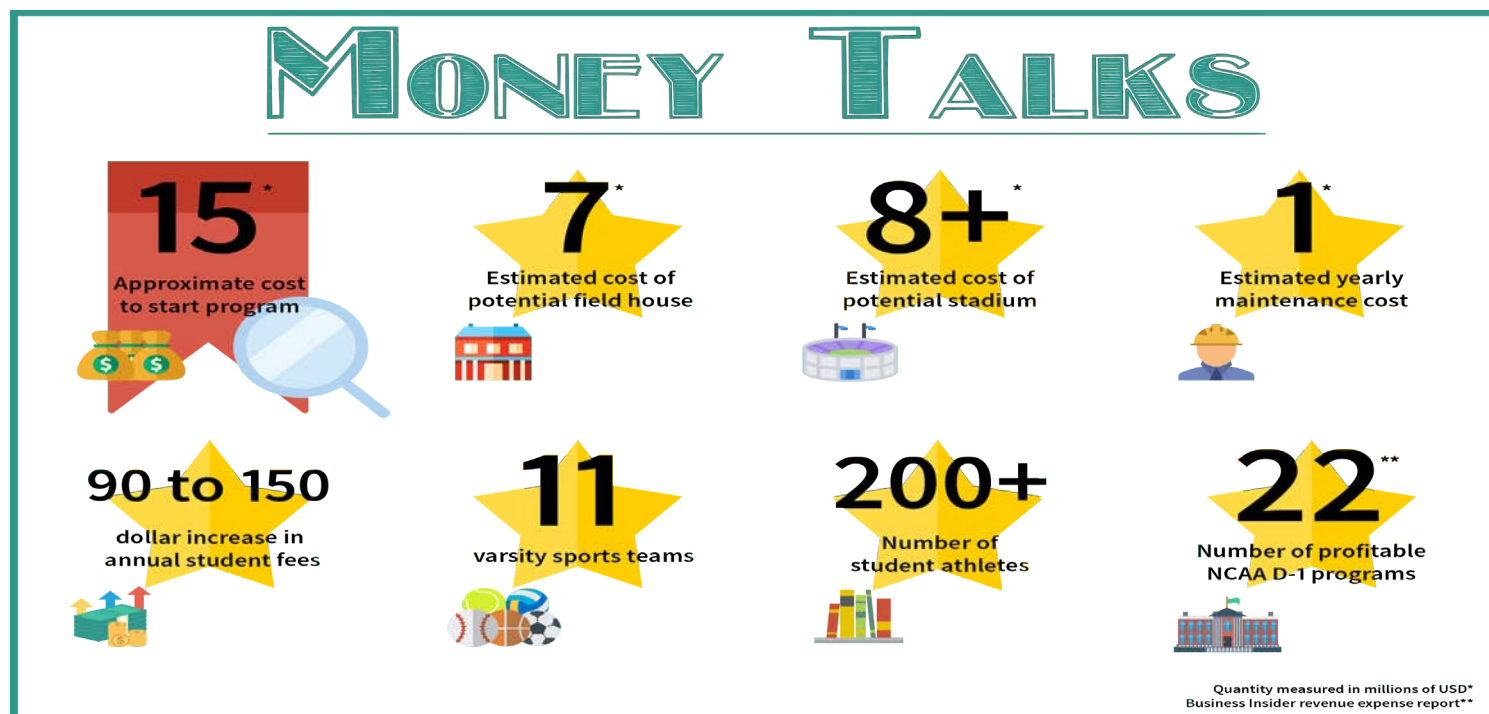
"It's going to take you to start it, and if you're going to start it right, somewhere between \$10 million and 15 million," said Stanton. "And that's actually a low number, I would say."

This money includes building a fieldhouse for the team, which would cost about \$7 million alone, hiring coaches and athletic trainers and building a stadium. GC would need multiple generous sponsors to even get the program started.

In addition, Stanton says it would cost \$1 million each year to maintain the team. Student fees would increase by \$90 to \$150 to maintain the program, according to Stanton.

Many people believe that having a football program would bring in a lot of money and would eventually cover these costs. Stanton disagrees. He pointed out that even at the public TV level, only about two dozen teams bring in that much money.

Title IX would also add to



Designed by Sean Montgomery

costs since it plays a large role in the addition of sports programs. Title IX is a law that calls for equal representation of genders among college athletics.

If the college brings in 100 male athletes for the football team, the athletic department would have to either add multiple women's programs or cut existing men's programs to even out the number of female and male athletes represented at GC.

This would "[take] away opportunities from students who are already here," according to Al Weston, assistant athletic director.

Adding multiple women's programs would cost another

couple million dollars, increasing the overall cost.

Even if GC could afford to build a football program, Weston is skeptical of how successful the program would be.

"I'm not personally convinced that the attendance would stay there," Weston said. "There would be the newness element of it, and I think it would do well for a year or two, but then after that...UGA is playing right up the road, so there would be that competition there that we would have a hard time going against."

Weston also pointed out that we might lose attendance to other bigger teams such as Georgia

Tech or Georgia Southern.

Freshman Catherine James, a mass communications major, disagrees and believes the attendance would last. Football is part of the student culture, James said, especially since many students' high school football teams typically had large turnouts.

"People come no matter what their relationship to the team is because they just love football," said James. "[It] would really bring us together as a student body."

Freshman Makenah Mader, a mass communications major, thinks having a football team would add to GC's atmosphere.

"I feel like Georgia College is so great during the week but during the weekends, starting Friday mornings, you kind of miss that hype," said Mader. "I think it would be really great to have one because so many of the students would be so supportive of it."

Weston encourages students to focus on attending current GC teams rather than hoping for a football team.

"[We've] got over 200 student athletes that achieve at a high academic and high athletic level," said Weston. "Check out those sports and become of fan of those eleven varsity sports that we have."

Changes to Title IX legislation in store for GC

Amy McDonald
Staff Writer

In recent weeks, comments made by the Trump administration have raised questions about the future of Title IX provisions on college campuses.

As it currently stands, Title IX protects from discrimination in federally-funded environments based on sex; this includes sexual assault, academic settings and athletics.

A decrease in the federal Department of Education budget for the Office of Civil Rights, which Title IX falls under, could mean a decrease in oversight and enforcement of these mandated regulations.

At this time, Georgia College administration is still reviewing what the changes could mean for our campus.

However, students need not worry just yet. For years, faculty and staff have demonstrated a dedication to enforcing Title IX, creating a space where the spirit of the law is an intrinsic part of the campus community in all aspects.

One of those aspects is the athletics department. Georgia College boasts 11 NCAA Division-II teams that compete in the Peach Belt Conference, six of which are women's sports—a statistic reflective of the GC student body female-to-male ratio, as mandated by Title IX.

"All athletes and students deserve and receive the same opportunities, the same resources and the same financial support," said Mark Gainous, men's basketball head coach. "I know [the women's teams] get good fan support, especially for volleyball and soccer right now, and are very successful in tournaments."

He has taken his son and daughter to soccer matches. Both enjoy going, and Coach Gainous enjoys that his children are able to look up to great female athletes.

Coach Barsby of GC tennis coaches both men and women and has seen how advances have improved women's sports.

"The quality of play and competition [is] increasing, starting at the grassroots level with youth sports," Barsby said. "As a nation we are going in the right direction."

He has faith that any changes the federal government makes will be handled well by GC's administration.

"We have never had an issue with male-to-female spending in athletics," Barsby said. "Our administration

and leadership ensure fairness and are on board with equality."

Barsby's belief in equality extends onto the tennis courts where his athletes train, and he pushes both males and females equally to be their best and compete.

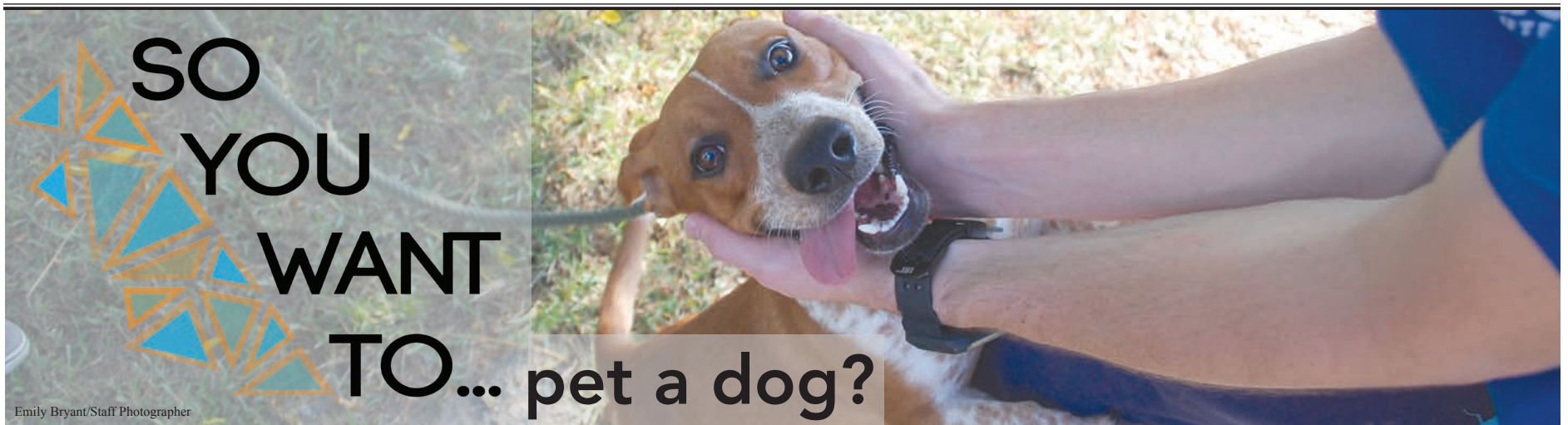
Associate athletic director Jimmy Wilson said he wishes laws were not needed to keep equality in women's sports but knows this is unfortunately not the case.

"I think the government needs to stay involved," Wilson said. "Reason being, when hiring head coaches, it is still a male-dominated world."

In addition to being an athletic director, Jimmy Wilson serves as a member of the Title IX team responsible for the athletic department's compliance with regulations. However, for Wilson, it's as much a personal desire for equality as it is a job.

"One day I want to hire a woman as a coach for a men's team," Wilson said. "It happens all the time with men coaching women, and it is time for it to happen the other way around."

Wilson recognizes that there are still advances to be made until such gaps are closed, and Title IX is an integral part of achieving that goal across college campuses.



Emily Bryant/Staff Photographer

**Chandler
Durden**
Staff Writer

“Volunteers are a huge asset,” said Baldwin County Animal Shelter administrator Rebecca Lanier-Weeks. “No amount of help is too small.”

A day in the life at the shelter tends to be hectic, and with a limited amount of volunteers on hand, it is always chaotic.

“We are looking for volunteers to wash dishes, do laundry, walk the dogs, and transport the animals,” Lanier-Weeks said. “But the most important job is to socialize with the dogs and cats.”

But how does the average Joe get involved? Fortunately for Georgia College students, there is a

If you are feeling the stress of midterms and also enjoy the company of four-legged, furry friends, the Baldwin County Animal Shelter might be just the place for you.

campus organization that is dedicated solely to aiding the local shelter.

GC Shelter Buddies is a group of students who volunteer at the shelter on a regular basis. They also have multiple fundraisers, such as selling t-shirts or hosting spirit nights at local restaurants.

“Being apart of GC Shelter Buddies contributes to your whole college experience,” said sophomore Tate Pointer, Shelter Buddies Vice President. “Helping these animals allows you to give back to your community, whether you are from here or not.”

To get in touch with the club, just reach out on social media or attend one of the club’s meetings.

GC Shelter Buddies is doing everything they can to help the shelter rescue and care for the dogs and cats in the community. They help get these animals off the streets of Milledgeville, bring them in and place them in homes.

Pointer shared the touching reason for his involvement with the shelter. “There was this black lab

puppy that came to the shelter that was frightened and obviously from a bad home,” Pointer said. “By just loving on her for a while, I saw a transformation from being scared to always begging for my attention.”

He went on to say they are not just there to walk dogs but to also rehabilitate and love them.

Freshman Sydni Gilbert, a psychology major, shared why she joined GC Shelter Buddies. “This is my first year of being in college, and I left all my pets back home, so I am trying to love on the animals here in Milledgeville,” Gilbert said.

So, whether you need a furry fix or a break from the never-ending cycle of studying, reach out to the animal shelter or GC Shelter buddies to see how you can contribute.

“College is stressful enough,” Pointer said. “This is a great way to relieve that stress by loving on some dogs because trust me, they need it too.”



RUNNING HARD, RAISING HOPE

Photos by Ada Montgomery



On Saturday, GC Miracle in collaboration with Phi Mu and ATO, hosted the annual FTKolor Run around downtown Milledgeville. The event raised money for a new Children's Hospital in Macon, GA as well as for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. There were 316 total participants who together raised about \$8,000.



Ansley Jones, the director of GC Miracle, and Katie Beauchamp, the director of special events for the FTKolor Run, worked together to organize the event.



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